

Reading Animal Control Board

Minutes of Meeting on April 29, 2009

The Reading Animal Control Board met on Wednesday, April 29th, 2009, at 7:00pm in the Penn Room.

Members in attendance were: Barrie Pease (Chairperson), Harry Brown (ARL),
George Schutt (member), Margaret Davy (member), and Dennis
Straub (Alternate)

Others in attendance: Chris Reber, Reading Eagle

Absent: Richard Rosato (Alternate)

The minutes of the March 25th Reading Animal Control Board were reviewed. There was one correction made that being that Mr. Schutt did not want to be reappointed. A motion was made by Mr. Straub to accept the minutes as corrected with a second by Mr. Schutt then unanimously passed by all members present.

Chairman Barrie Pease distributed copies of Reading's Animal Control to all members, with notations of the following:

- changes are necessary in order to conform to the State of Pennsylvania's existing laws
- to change definition of 'aggressive dog,' to reflect current State's regulations - - also includes how such should be licensed, and measures to be taken when out in the community with the dog
- changes in permit procedures for Exotic Animal, currently there is no charge for requesting a permit, Margaret Davy suggested that a charge of \$75 be instituted for each permit request, this was seconded by Dennis Straub. The money would be split between the City of Reading (\$35.00) and the 'designated animal control authority' (\$40.00).
- cities nearby Reading already have current ordinances limiting the number of pets in one household {i.e., Spring Township limits number to 4 / Lancaster limits number to 6} - it was agreed that Reading's ordinance could add a section to limit the number of pets within the city of Reading to a maximum of six (6) household pets of 6-months or older.

As noted, any such changes to the Animal Control Ordinance must be presented to City Council, have a public review period, be voted upon, and then signed by the Mayor *before* becoming law. This process could take up to one year. It was also agreed that the portion of the Animal Control Ordinance covering exotic animals was to be a general guideline, as it was impossible to name every possible animal in the ordinance.

Membership was also discussed. In accordance with Bill no 42-2006, there are 5 members of the Animal Control Board plus 2 alternates. The 5 regular appointees are as follows:

- 2 - representatives of the community at large
- 2 - appointed representatives of the 'designated animal control authority'
- 1 - veterinarian
- 2 alternates - representatives of the community at large

Member George Schutt has decided NOT to renew his term of office. There is already a person who applied to be a member awaiting confirmation.

Member Margaret Davy has decided to renew her term of office. The paperwork is being processed.

Alternate Richard Rosato, though lack of attendance and non-reply to (a) letter and (b) phone call, - the Animal Control Board accepts this as his decision to no longer participate - the appointment runs out June 2009.

Thus an opening for *one (1) alternate* will be available for any interested party.

It was agreed by all that the Animal Control Board would next meet: Wednesday - May27th - 7pm – in City Hall.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barrie Pease, seconded by Margaret Davy, and passed unanimously.

Margaret V. Davy
'Temporary' Recording Secretary